

*Bl
cancel* agent comprises a phenol function as a masking function, it does not comprise a COOH function.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 34 and 35 (renumbered by the Examiner as claims 31 and 32) and replace claims 20-33 and 36-39 (renumbered by the Examiner as claims 17-30 and 33-36) as follows:

*Sub
C1* 17. (Amended) A composition comprising aliphatic isocyanates, at least partially blocked by at least two different blocking agents, one of the blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group and the other reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an NH group or the at least two blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group, the at least two blocking agents having a deblocking temperature of between 80 and 200°C in the octanol test and being selected so that, in the octanol test at 110°C, the ratio

*2
Bq
C1*

$$D = \frac{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks first at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks last at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

is greater than 4/3, with the proviso that, when a blocking agent comprises a phenol functional group as blocking functional group, it does not comprise a COOH functional group and that, when the composition comprises more than two blocking functional groups

and one of the agents represents a five-membered nitrogenous heterocycle, the composition comprises more than 30 equivalent % of blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via the OH functional group, wherein said at least partially blocked aliphatic isocyanates fulfill the following conditions:

- at least one third of the free or blocked NCO functional groups are connected to a hydrocarbonaceous backbone via a saturated (sp^3) carbon;
- at least one third of said saturated (sp^3) carbons carry at least one hydrogen; and
- at least one third of said saturated (sp^3) carbons are connected to said backbone via a carbon atom itself bearing at least one hydrogen.

B24
cont

18. (Amended) A composition comprising isocyanates at least partially blocked, by at least two different blocking agents as defined in claim 17, wherein said ratio D is greater than 1.5.

19. (Amended) A composition comprising isocyanates at least partially blocked by at least two different blocking agents as defined in claim 17, wherein said ratio D is greater than 2.

20. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein the ratio of the blocking groups is between 10/90 and 90/10 by weight.



21. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein one of the blocking agents is a substituted or unsubstituted (poly)nitrogenous heterocyclic compound.

22. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein the ratio of the blocking groups is between 20/80 and 80/20 by weight.

23. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein one of the blocking agents is selected from the group consisting of pyrazole, triazole and pyridine, each being optionally substituted.


24. (Amended) The composition of claim 23, wherein one of the blocking agents is triazole, optionally substituted.

25. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein one of the two blocking agents is an oxime.

26. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein one of the blocking agents is an oxime selected from the group consisting of methyl ethyl ketoxime, acetone oxime, methyl amyl ketoxime, the oxime of methyl pyruvate and the oxime of ethyl pyruvate.

27. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein said blocking agents are selected from the pairs:

- triazole/methyl ethyl ketoxime,
- triazole/oxime of ethyl pyruvate,
- dimethylpyrazole/methyl amyl ketoxime,
- hydroxypyridine/methyl amyl ketoxime, and
- dimethylpyrazole/hydroxypyridine.

 28. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, comprising a mixture of compounds bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s), wherein said compounds exhibit a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional groups per molecule comprising them) of greater than 2, and at most equal to about 15.

29. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, comprising a mixture of compounds bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s), wherein said compounds exhibit a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional groups per molecule comprising them) at least equal to 2.1, and at most equal to 4.

30. (Amended) The composition of claim 17, comprising a mixture of compound bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s) wherein said compounds exhibit

B²
C²
a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional group per molecule comprising them) at least equal to 2.4 and at most equal to 7.

33. (Amended) A kit for the preparation of a coating, comprising, a composition of claim 17 and a coreactant comprising a reactive hydrogen.

34. (Amended) The kit of claim 33, for the preparation of a paint.

S⁵
C²
B³
C²
35. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a composition, comprising the step of reacting an aliphatic (poly)isocyanate composition, successively or simultaneously, with at least two different blocking agents, one of the blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group and the other reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an NH group or the at least two blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group, the at least two blocking agents having a deblocking temperature of between 80 and 200°C in the octanol test and being selected so that, in the octanol test at 110°C, the ratio

$$D = \frac{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks first at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks last at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

is greater than 4/3, with the proviso that, when a blocking agent comprises a phenol functional group as blocking functional group, it does not comprise a COOH functional group and that, when the polyisocyanate composition comprises more than two blocking functional groups and one of the agents represents a five-membered nitrogenous heterocycle, the composition comprises more than 30 equivalent % of blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via the OH functional group, wherein the following conditions are fulfilled:

- P3 (mld)*
- at least one third of the free or blocked NCO functional groups are connected to a hydrocarbonaceous backbone via a saturated (sp^3) carbon;
 - at least one third of said saturated (sp^3) carbons carry at least one hydrogen; and
 - at least one third of said saturated (sp^3) carbons are connected to said backbone via a carbon atom itself bearing at least one hydrogen.

36. (Amended) A process for the preparation of coating polymers, comprising the following steps:

- bringing together the composition of claim 17 and a coreactant which comprises derivatives exhibiting reactive hydrogens; and
- heating the reaction mixture thus formed to a temperature which allows crosslinking of the isocyanate groups of compounds with said coreactant.